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The Jones Family

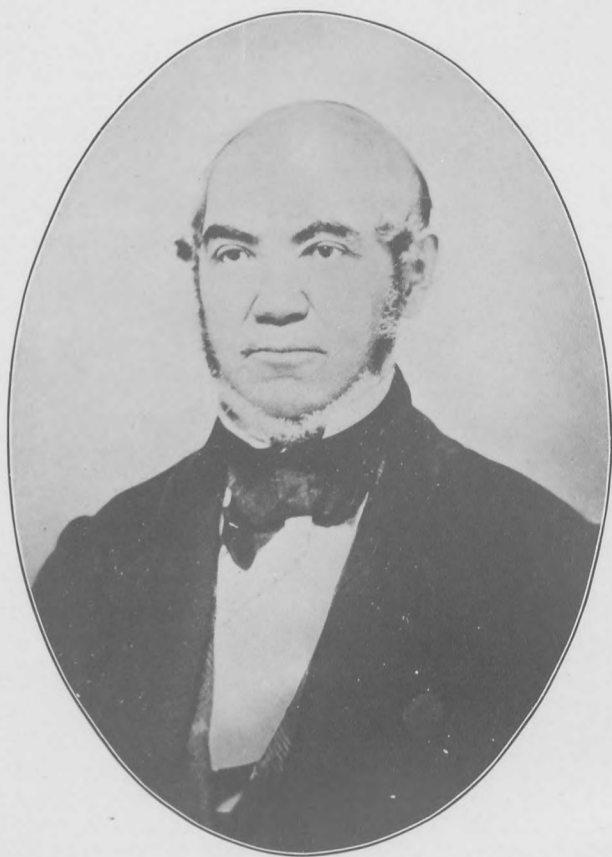
The Jones Family

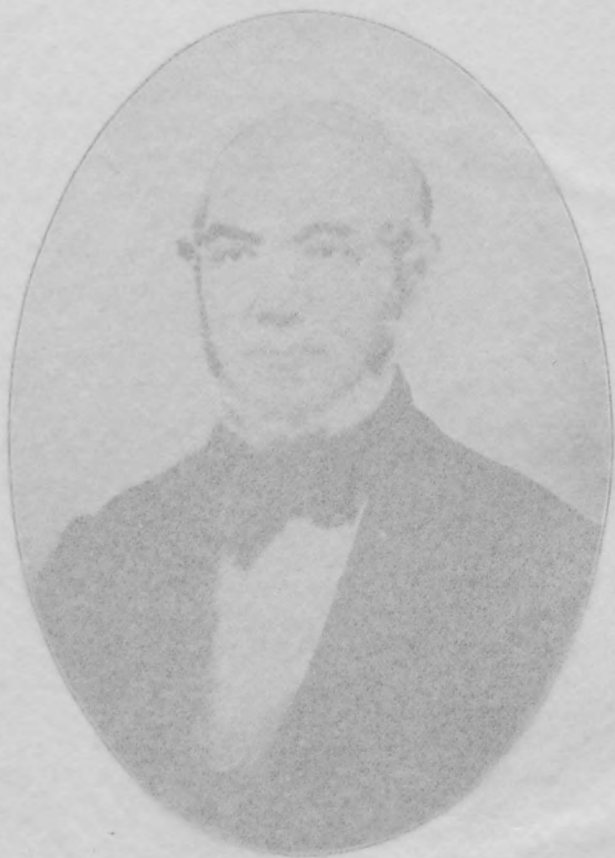
Five generations from Francis
Jones, of Pembrokeshire,
Wales, to Richard Mott Jones,
of Penn Yan, New York



Compiled by
Albert Brill Russell
Ilion, New York

To the memory of my mother
Sophie Eleanor Jones Russell.





Richard Mott Jones

About 1862

Foreword

THE following history of our Jones ancestry, so far as it is known, is based upon research made for me during 1924 by Alfred R. Justice, Esq., a genealogist of Philadelphia, and upon data which I have obtained from family records, old letters and other sources. To Walter Wolcott, Esq., of Penn Yan, I am indebted for much information regarding (IV) Joseph Jones and for the extracts from local papers relating to him.

While the first definite information we have of our Jones ancestors refers to their migration from Ireland to Wales, we may safely assume that the stock was originally Welsh or English. The name itself is almost sufficient evidence, for the old Irish families almost invariably used the prefix O' or Mc.

The surname Jones ranks first in number among the family names of Wales, one Welshman in seven bearing the name; in England it holds second place, being barely exceeded in frequency by Smith; and among the old family names of New England it is outnumbered only by Smith, Brown, Johnson, Clark, White, Davis and Williams.

Being of patronymic derivation, originally John's, it came into use as an hereditary family surname during the fifteenth century; and, being almost always of Welsh origin, it is found in England most frequently in those counties nearest to Wales.

A great many families from Wales, England and Scotland settled in Ireland about the time of the battle of the Boyne and prior thereto. A very large number, mostly Scotch, came over with Sir Hugh Montgomery in May, 1606, and later came English and Welsh settlers,

A great many Welsh names, such as Evans, Jones, Roberts, etc., appear upon the records of Ireland.

Where dates are from the records of the Monthly Meeting of Friends they are shown numerically, *i. e.* 6/29/1690 indicates the 29th day of the 6th month, following the usage of Friends. Other dates are from civil or family records.

As this history of the family is intended for various descendants of Richard Mott Jones, I have not attempted to carry it into the succeeding generation.

ALBERT BRILL RUSSELL.

December, 1924.

1. Francis Jones

FRANCIS JONES, of whose progenitors we have no definite knowledge, first appears at Redstone, near Haverford West, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where he came from Ireland, about 1708, with his family, which included his four sons. The following certificate, dated 6/17/1711, was given by the Redstone Monthly Meeting of Friends:

“Whereas we understand that our ffriend ffrancis Jones and his ffamily intends to transport themselves to Pensilvania in america and Desires a certificate from ffriends on that account; These are therefore to Certifie all whom it may concern — that about three years ago they came over here to Pembrock Sheire from Ireland and Ever since did belong to our Monthly Meeting at Redstone and have all along lived in Love and peace with ffriends and Neighbors and behaved themselves orderly and Cyvil in all Respects, to the utmost of our Knowledge and also do depart out of our Countrey in Love and with the Consent of ffriends; who truely wisheth and Desireth that the Lord may Bless and prosper them in all their good intentions Especially in their inward and Spirituall undertaking and Concerns of Soul Salvation, etc.

Signed by us

Tho: Cornock, Sen ^r	D. Musgrave, Jr.
Tho: Cornock, Jun ^r	David Musgrave
James Lewis, Sen ^r	James S. Kone
	James Lewis, Jun ^r ”

A somewhat similar certificate, granted “ye 21st of 7th mo. 1711” by “our men’s meeting at Haverford

West" to Samuel Jones, a son of Francis, states that "about 3 years past he came over here from Ireland 2 years of w^{ch} time he lived with his father . . . after w^{ch} . . . he married . . ."

No separate certificate was granted to the son Francis, doubtless because he lacked a few days of having reached his majority and was unmarried when the certificate was issued to the father and his family, which included also the two younger sons.

The certificate granted to Francis Jones was presented to the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting 12/29/1711 and there recorded. It was likewise placed on the records of Chester, Pennsylvania, Monthly Meeting, from which this copy is taken.

From the same records we learn that 11/31/1714 he requested a certificate as he intended to move with his family to Duck Creek. As no mention is made on the women's minutes of Chester it is reasonably certain that no female members were included in his family. This certificate was presented to the Duck Creek Meeting 4/20/1715, and on these records his name appears three times in the next two years as representing the Duck Creek Monthly Meeting at Little Creek. No further record of him is found.

Children:*

Samuel, b. 5/10/1688, m. Hannah —

Francis, b. 6/29/1690, m. Jane — (Medcalf)

Henry, b. 4/24/1693,

Jonas, b. 6/15/1695.

* From a family record, Cope MS. Papers, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

II. Francis Jones

FRANCIS JONES, the son of Francis and ——— Jones, was born 6/29/1690, probably in Ireland, and, about 1708, moved with his father and brothers from Ireland to Redstone, Pembrokeshire, Wales, whence in 1711 they migrated to America and settled at Chester, Pennsylvania.

About 1715 he married Jane, the widow of Matthew Medcalf, of Gloucester, New Jersey.

September 15, 1719, he was appointed Constable for Gloucester town and January 15, 1719/20 Overseer of Highways.

At a Monthly Meeting held at Haddonfield, New Jersey, 3/9/1726, Thomas Sharp, on behalf of Francis Jones, Jr., requests that inquiry be made concerning his conversation whilst he lived among us. John Hugg and John Mickle to inquire. 4/13/1726 it was reported that his conversation had been orderly, excepting his marriage, which he made acknowledgment for, therefore orders that he have a certificate according. It is probable that his marriage took place before a justice, instead of in accordance with the usage of Friends. We know that his widow married (2) Isaac Taylor, Jr., before a justice.

August 30, 1726, Francis Jones presented this petition to His Majesty's Justices at Chester:

"That your Petitioner living at the Gapp on the Great Road leading from Philadelphia to Conistogoe, having very good accommodation for Travellers going along the said Road, prays that this Court will grant him Lycense to sell Beer and Sider."

This petition was endorsed by 21 persons including Joseph Jervis, John Musgrave, David Jones, John Minshall, Simeon Taylor and John Miller.

The petition was granted and a bond of £60 for observing the law signed by James Wall as Security.

It is probable that he died shortly prior to March 26, 1739, on which date his will was probated.

*Will of Francis Jones of Gap, Pennsylvania**

"To all People to whom these presents shall come know ye that I, Francis Jones of the Township of Sadsbury in the county of Lancaster in the Province of Pennsylvania, Inn holder, though weak in body yet of sound and perfect memory blessed be the Lord of the Same for the Disposing of what goods and chattels the Lord hath made me Steward of I do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following hereby revoking all other wills or will by me made heretofore.

"*Imp.* Into the hand of Almighty God I do commit my spirit and my body to the ground Decently to be interred as my Executors in their Discretion shall see meet, and that all my just debts and Funeral Expenses be first paid out of my estate.

"*Item.* I give and bequeath to my eldest son John, his heirs and assigns this plantation whereon I now Live with all the Improvements and appurtenances, thereunto belonging, it being three Hundred Acres of land with the Allowances he paying out of it Ten Pounds to my third son Francis to be paid to him when he comes to the age of Twenty-one and also to Purchase Fifty acres of land at the Gap spring for which I have a warrant for the use of the said Francis and his heirs and twenty pounds more to my fourth son James to be paid to him when he come to the age of twenty one, and Twenty Pounds more to my eldest daughter Sarah to be paid to her when she comes to the age of eighteen and Twenty Pounds more to my second daughter

* Will Book A, Vol. 1, p. 41.

Rachel to be paid to her when she comes to the age of eighteen.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my second son, Joseph his heirs and assigns that Plantation joynning on the north west side of Thomas Faulkner's Plantation on a branch of Picqua with all the Improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, Containing Two Hundred Acres of Land with allowance and a right of fifty Acres more laying on the north side of the Mountain Known by the name of the Dry Run, he paying to my fifth son Thomas Twenty Pounds when he comes to the age of twenty-one and Twenty Pounds more to be paid to my youngest son Samuel when he comes to the age of twenty-one.

"Item. I give and bequeath unto my well Beloved wife one third part of my personal estate after my just debts and funeral expenses is paid.

"Item. I give and bequeath unto sons Francis James, Thomas, and Samuel and to my daughters Sarah and Rachael all the Reversion of the other two thirds parts of my personal estate if any there be after bringing them up to be divided equally amongst them as they come to age and if any of them dye in their non-age that share or shares to be equally divided amongst the survivors.

"Item. My will is that if my son John Dye in his minority that his place descend to my son Joseph, he paying the aforesaid Legacies which his Brother John was to pay and Joseph's place to descend to my son Francis, he paying the above Legacies that his Brother Joseph was to pay and Five pounds more to each of the above sd Legatees and in that manner in case of Death to Desend Downwards to the youngest and also if my son Joseph Dye in his minority his place shall descend to my son Francis, he paying the above s'd Legacies that his brother Joseph was to pay Five Pounds apiece

to each of the above said Legacies and in that manner to descend downwards to the youngest Likewise my will is that if any of the aforesaid Legacies dye in their minority their share or shares shall be equally divided amongst the surviving Legatees. Lastly I nominate and appoint my Dear Beloved wife to be my true and lawful Executrix of this my last will and Testament and appoint my brother Samuel Jones and Anthony Shaw as Trustees and as a further testimony hereof have hereunto these Presents put my hand and seal this 5th Day of the 10th mo. 1737.

“(The words his heirs and assigns interlined before signing of these presents)

Sealed Signed and Declared in the presence of us

Francis Jones

[SEAL]

Henry Gay
William Jones
Hannah Jones, Jr.

March 26, 1739, Probated before me

Sa. Blunston

Dep. Register.

“Same day letters testamentary granted to Jane Jones.”

Children:

John, m. Betty Woodnut
Joseph, probably moved to Fairfax, Virginia.
Francis,
James,
Sarah,
Rachel,
Thomas,
Samuel.

Jane (Medcalf) Jones, his wife, afterwards married Isaac Taylor, Jr., a widower, son of Isaac and Sarah Bradwell Taylor, and the following record* appears:

"9/2/1741, Jane Taylor formerly the widow Jones being denied by Friends for her being married by a Justice hath produced to this meeting a few lines expressing her sorrow for her outgoing and desires that Friends may pass it by which this meeting accepts — and appoints Anthony Shaw to read it in a first day Meeting at Sadsbury."

Her will, dated July 2, 1764, probated August 8, 1764, and previous records make it clear that she had children by her three husbands, viz.: By Matthew Medcalf, a daughter Esther, who married Nathaniel Newlin. By Francis Jones, six sons and two daughters, listed above. By Isaac Taylor, one son, Isaac Taylor.

* Page 17 of Original Sadsbury Meeting Minutes, unindexed, 15th and Race Streets, Philadelphia.

III. John Jones

JOHNS JONES, son of Francis and Jane — (Medcalf) Jones, was evidently born in New Jersey. The date is unknown. At the time his father made his will in 1737, he was still in his minority. However, as he was the oldest of eight children and his father married in 1715, we may assume that he was approaching his majority and we may believe his birth to have been not far from 1717, at which time his father lived in Gloucester, New Jersey.

He inherited from his father the property at Sadsbury, Pennsylvania, and doubtless lived there some years, but 6/18/1760 he was granted a certificate* from Sadsbury Meeting which was presented at Warrington, York County, Meeting 10/11/1760.

He married, by license dated April 13, 1763, Betty Woodnut.

In 1765 complaint† was made to the Meeting that John Jones was married by a priest, which at a later meeting he acknowledged and his acknowledgment‡ was accepted. Other entries§ show that he was in York County in 1774.

The date of his death is not known.

Children:

Sarah, b. abt. 1766, m. William Underwood.

Samuel, b. abt. 1771, d. 1839. A surveyor.

Joseph, b. 1773, m. (1) Elizabeth Riggs, (2)

Susan Atkinson.

Susanna.

Rebecca.

* Warrington Friends Register, page 105.

† Warrington Friends Register, page 123.

‡ Warrington Friends Register, page 157.

§ Warrington Friends Register, page 206.

iv. Joseph Jones

JOSEPH JONES, son of John and Betty Woodnut Jones, was born at Warrington, York County, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1773.

He removed from Pennsylvania to Yates County, New York, and settled in Jerusalem, near "The Friend's Settlement." The members of this colony, under the leadership of a remarkable woman, Jemima Wilkinson, or the "Universal Friend" as she preferred to be called, mostly came from the vicinity of New Milford, Connecticut, but quite a number came from Chester County, Pennsylvania, about forty of whom made their way through the wilderness by way of Captain Williamson's road and settled near Seneca Lake. There is no evidence, however, that Joseph Jones was a disciple of Jemima Wilkinson.

Joseph Jones was a hatter and a surveyor and was appointed one of the two Commissioners of Yates County. The first road in Milo, beginning at the Friend's Settlement and bearing south to the county line, was laid out by Joseph Jones and Joshua Andrews, Commissioners, June 6, 1797. The road from Benton Centre to Penn Yan was surveyed by them in 1799 and is the earliest survey of record in Benton; blazed trees marked the corners and lines of lots. He also surveyed several townships in Allegany County and the Indian Reservation at Tonawanda when it passed out of Indian ownership. It is probable that he pursued his trade as a hatter during the winter when surveying was impossible.

He was a Hicksite Friend, but in later life attended the Presbyterian Church. He was held in high esteem by his neighbors and was frequently called upon to settle disputes in regard to lines and division of lands in

various parts of Western New York. He was commonly known as "Friend Jones."

It is evident that he lived at Scipio, Cayuga County, New York, in 1819, but during most of his life he made his home at Penn Yan.

He married (1) July 17, 1800, Elizabeth Riggs, daughter of Philip and Polly Pierce Riggs, of Benton Centre, and (2) January 26, 1819, Susan Atkinson, daughter of John and Elizabeth Atkinson of Junius, Seneca County, New York.

The following is a transcript* of his marriage certificate to Susan Atkinson:

"Joseph Jones of the town of Scipio, County of Cayuga, and State of New York, son of John Jones and Betty, his wife, and Susan Atkinson of the town of Junius, County of Seneca and State aforesaid, daughter of John Atkinson and Elizabeth, his wife, having laid their intention of marriage with each other before two monthly meetings of the religious society of Friends, held at Junius, in the State aforesaid, they having consent of parents, and nothing appearing to obstruct their proposal of marriage as allowed by the meeting. These are to certify that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this twenty-sixth day of the first month in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and nineteen, they; the said Joseph Jones and Susan Atkinson appeared in a public meeting of said Society, held at Junius, and the said Joseph Jones taking the said Susan Atkinson by the hand, did, on this solemn occasion, declare, that he took her to be his wife; promising, through divine assistance, to be unto her a faithful and loving husband, until separated by death, or words to that effect: and there the said Susan Atkinson did, in like manner, declare, that she took the said Joseph Jones to be her husband, promising, through divine assistance,

* Yates County Chronicle, August 19, 1869.

to be unto him, a faithful and loving wife, until separated by death, or words to that import. And they, the said Joseph Jones and Susan Atkinson, she, according to the custom of marriage, assuming the name of her husband, as a farther confirmation thereof, did then and there to these presents set their hands.

Joseph Jones.

Susan Jones.

“And we being present have subscribed our names as witnesses* thereof:

“Daniel Pound, Asa Pound, Mary Jones, Rhoda J. Pound, Amanda M. Stewart, Rachel Jones, Mary Hampton, Almeda Griffin, Elizabeth Jones, Thomas Pound, Jacob Pound, Hannah P. Bradley, Sarah Laing, Joseph Webster, Esther Webster, Jonathan Pound, Bathsheba Pound, Joel Pound, Joseph Laing, Hannah Laing, Mary Webster, Samuel Laing, Edith Laing, Hannah Barclay, Elijah Pound, John Heald, Martha Tupper, Ama Webster, Martha Barclay, Susannah Webster, Thomas Wickersham, Ann H. Pound, Hannah Webster, Samuel Lundy, Sally Lundy, Levi Lundy, Bathsheba Lundy, Elizabeth Lundy, William Webster, Rachel Webster.”

The following is an extract from an article entitled “Matters Biographical,” written by Miles A. Davis†:

“Jesse Davis, who died in the year 1862, at the age of nearly 85, located in this county upon the shore of Seneca Lake, in 1791, in company with Abraham Wagener, living, cooking, eating and laboring together in this mutual manner for three years . . .

* The appearance of Kester, Webster and other names associated with the ancestry of Rachel Kester, who married the son, Richard Mott Jones, suggests that Susan Atkinson's family came from Kingwood, New Jersey, and she was perhaps akin to the wife of her step-son.

† Yates County Chronicle, July 22, 1869.

"At the age of 18, Jesse, in company with Joseph Jones, went on a survey of townships, surveying out in a month's extension, what is now Dansville. This was in the year 1794, and there was then but two houses on the spot where now stands the fine and flourishing village of Dansville, occupied by two brothers named Haman.

"They were without firearms and with but little provision, in a country uninhabited by white men, and prowled over by panthers, wolves, bears and other wild animals. Panthers were frequently heard screaming along the course pursued in their survey; and on one occasion, after they had built up their usual night fire, the wolves which had been making considerable demonstrations toward them of late, owing to their intense hunger, were so determined to have a meal out of these brave pioneers of civilization, that it was with the utmost difficulty and exertion of throwing firebrands into the faces of the infuriated beasts who howled around that camp fire all night, that their lives were preserved.

"Think of two utterly defenseless men standing guard in the deep jungle of an almost unbroken forest a whole night, with a single fire to warn off the monsters of the woods, and all around them a hungry, remorseless, blood-thirsty band of ravenous wolves, determined to glut and satiate their fury with the last drop of their heart's blood! Add to this, the fact that these woodsmen had a meagre supply of fresh venison near them, with which to keep another kind of wolf from their bodies, furnishing an ever fresh and keen impetus to urge on the maddened quadrupeds, and we have a picture at which the stoutest heart might well stand appalled."

Another extract* regarding Joseph Jones is of interest:

"The 'Angelica Reporter' is publishing a series of pioneer sketches. It says of the town called Canadea,

* Yates County Chronicle, July 15, 1869.

formerly an Indian Reservation, that it was surveyed into farm lots in 1828 by Joseph Jones, a Quaker. The same Joseph Jones was one of the early surveyors in this region, and his name occurs in multitudes of the old deeds as the surveyor of the lines described. Friend Jones is always spoken of with respect by those who remember him. . . . The compass of the old surveyor has passed through the hands of Hiland G. Wolcott and other surveyors since his day, and is now owned by James M. Clark, of Torrey, also a surveyor."

Joseph Jones died in 1849.

Children:

By Elizabeth —

Samuel K., m. Mary Ann Buckley of Milo, N. Y.

Joseph R. (M. D.), m. Anna Baker, of East Hamburg, N. Y.

Richard Mott, b. 1813, m. Rachel Kester, of East Hamburg, N. Y.

Mary Elizabeth, m. Richard Snell, of Lockport, N. Y.

Rachel K., m. Dr. Stephen Dean, of East Hamburg, N. Y.

By Susan —

Joshua W., m. Cordelia Webster, of East Hamburg, N. Y.

Susan A., b. 1821, m. Dr. Leverett Holbrook, of Chicago.

Ann N., m. Samuel Jennings, of Chicago.

v. Richard Mott Jones

RICHARD MOTT JONES, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Riggs Jones, was born at Penn Yan, New York, October 6, 1813.

As a young man he taught school and worked on a farm. He was a Quaker, being affiliated with the liberal or "Hicksite" branch of the Society of Friends.

He moved to East Hamburg, Erie County, New York, where, March 12, 1837, he married Rachel Kester, daughter of William and Mary Webster Kester.

Later he removed to the town of Torrey, Yates County, where he had a farm. While there he united with the Wesleyan Church.

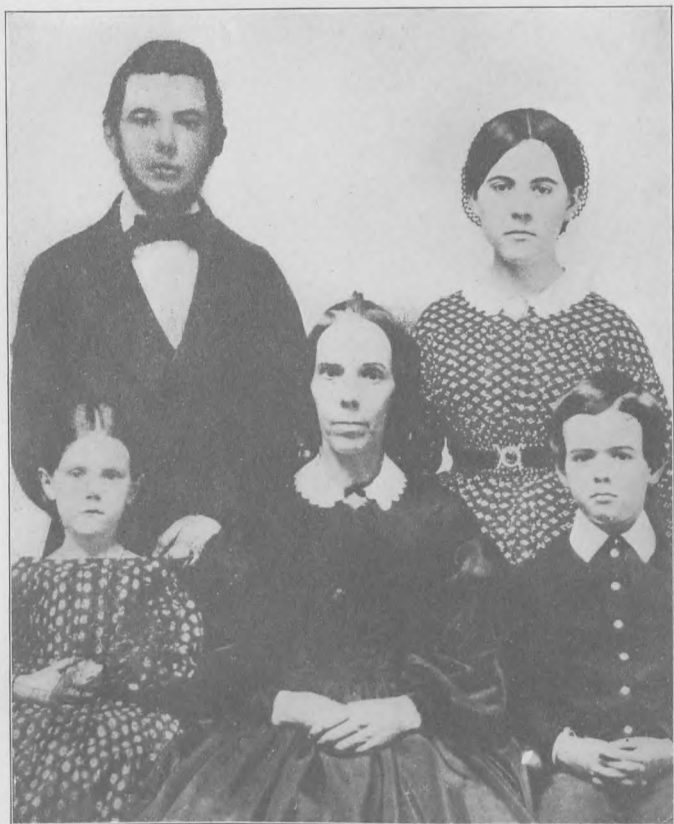
Somewhat later, but before 1850, he removed to Penn Yan and engaged in business.

He was an ardent abolitionist and temperance advocate and won some local fame as an eloquent speaker in behalf of these reforms, being given the sobriquet of "the John B. Gough of Western New York." He often sheltered fugitive negro slaves attempting to reach Canada and it is believed that his home was a recognized station of the "Underground Railroad."

At the outbreak of the Civil War he was desirous of enlisting in the Union Army, but, being over the age limit, was rejected by the enlisting officers, whereupon he dyed his hair, went to Geneva, New York, gave incorrect information as to his age, and was accepted for service, being a private in Company I, 148th New York Infantry. He saw active service in several engagements including the Siege of Petersburg, June 15 to August 25, 1864, at which time he was acting sergeant. He contracted disease and was for some time at Point of Rocks Hospital, Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, where he died March 14, 1865, and was buried in the City Point,



Rachel Kester Jones and
her Children, about 1864



Virginia, National Cemetery, the number of his grave being 643.

The following from Penn Yan papers of 1865 tell of the death of Mr. Jones:

* "Died at Point of Rocks Hospital, on Tuesday, March 14, 1865, Richard M. Jones, of Company I, 148th Regiment, aged 51 years.—Mr. Jones was a faithful and patriotic soldier, and died in the service of his country. His wife and family were very fondly attached to him and mourn most profoundly his loss. As a kind, indulgent and warm hearted husband and father, they have reason to feel his loss. Mrs. Jones has received the following letter from the Chaplain who ministered to him in his last hours:

"POINT OF ROCKS HOSPITAL,
BERMUDA HUNDRED, VA., March 17, 1865.

"MRS. R. M. JONES,

Dear Madam: — It is with sorrow that I write sad tidings to you. May our merciful Heavenly Father and loving Saviour sustain and comfort you in your bereavement.

"Your husband has passed away from earth, his spirit we trust has gone to the better world. The Surgeon was much encouraged in his case until the day before he died, then he failed rapidly.— The day he died I was with him. He even then seemed hopeful and cheerful. It did not alarm him when I told him that he was near his end. He said his trust was in Jesus Christ his Saviour. He wanted me to give you his love, also the same to the children. He said he would have been glad to have seen you once more. I knelt by his bed and offered prayer to which he responded fervently, Amen. He is buried in the pleasant Cemetery connected with the Hospital, and a board with his name and regiment painted thereon marks his grave.

Yours in sympathy and respectfully,

C. L. HAGAR, Chaplain."

* Penn Yan Democrat.

* “ ‘Died at Point of Rocks Hospital, on Tuesday, March 14, 1865, Richard M. Jones, of Company I, 148th Regiment, aged 51 years. Mr. Jones was a faithful and patriotic soldier, and died in the service of his country. His wife and family were very fondly attached to him and mourn most profoundly his loss. As a kind, indulgent and warm hearted husband and father, they have reason to feel his loss.’ — *Penn Yan Democrat*.

“Mr. Jones was for years our personal friend. He was a son of Mr. Joseph Jones, formerly known to our aged citizens as Surveyor Jones. We have known Richard for a quarter of a century. His parents were of that unobtrusive class generally known as Quakers, and it is probably owing to his early training that he was ever an abolitionist. When the war broke out he was patriotic and felt his whole being called upon to act for his country. In 1862 he enlisted in Company I, 148th Regiment, N. Y. V., and has shown himself a true man. We offer our sympathies to his widow and children. His memory will ever be fresh in our thoughts as an early friend, and a friend to equal rights.”

Children:

Joseph, b. 1838, m. Susan A. George, d. Nov. 6, 1872.

Mary Susan, b. 1840, d. Aug. 4, 1842.

Augusta Maria, b. 1844, m. Royal G. Kinner, d. Jan. 27, 1914.

William Kester, b. 1851, m. Ethel A. Lanning, d. Sept. 15, 1882.

Sophie Eleanor, b. 1853, m. Samuel T. Russell, d. Sept. 22, 1924.

* Probably Yates County Chronicle.